

**ARIZONA GAME AND FISH DEPARTMENT  
HERITAGE DATA MANAGEMENT SYSTEM**

**Plant Abstract**

**Element Code:** PDAST700Y0

**Data Sensitivity:** No

**CLASSIFICATION, NOMENCLATURE, DESCRIPTION, RANGE**

**NAME:** *Perityle ajoensis* T.K. Todsen

**COMMON NAME:** Ajo Rock-Daisy

**SYNONYMS:**

**FAMILY:** Asteraceae

**AUTHOR, PLACE OF PUBLICATION:** T.K. Todsen, Journal of the Arizona Academy of Science 9 (1): 35. 1974.

**TYPE LOCALITY:** Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument, Ajo Mountains, Pima County, 3000 ft, 10-22-1972.

**TYPE SPECIMEN:** HT: NY. T.K. Todsen 2292, 22 Oct 1972. IT: ARIZ, NMC, SRSC, OPCNM.

**TAXONOMIC UNIQUENESS:** A distinct species in a genus of about 25 species native to southwestern U.S. and Mexico (total of 35 species of *Perityle*), and one of 13 *Perityles* located in Arizona.

**DESCRIPTION:** A small shrubby perennial, up to 12 inches (30.5 cm) or more tall and wide, with upright, spreading stems from a woody root. The stems are densely covered with fine hairs, which are persistent on old branches. The grayish-green leaves are scattered, the lower ones opposite and the upper ones alternate. The leaf blades are ovate, deltoid or suborbicular with toothed margins. The blades and equally long petioles are covered with a fine layer of small hairs, which almost obscures the veins and short-glandular hairs. The solitary or clustered terminal flowers have phyllaries in two series which spread or reflex at maturity. Flower heads are composed of 20-30 yellow disk flowers (ray flowers absent); flowers sometimes orange-yellow in color. The pappus is a single stout awn and the achenes are black.

**AIDS TO IDENTIFICATION:** *P. ajoensis* superficially resembles *Pleurocoronis pluriseta* (arrow-leaf) when not in flower, but the leaf blades of *Pleurocoronis* are much smaller. The only other *Perityle* in the Ajo Mountains, *P. emoryi* (Emory's Rockdaisy) is not perennial. Also, *Perityle ajoensis* most closely resembles *P. inyoensis* (Inyo Rockdaisy), and *P. megalcephala* subsp. *megalcephala* (California Rockdaisy) of Section *Laphamia*. It differs from the former in its scattered leaves and from the latter two in its consistent single-awned pappus. It differs from all three in its fewer disc flowers and short-glandular hairs almost obscured by the pubescence. *Crossosoma bigelovii* (Bigelow's Crossosoma) occupies the same area but has smaller entire leaves and white five petaled flowers.

**ILLUSTRATIONS:** Line drawing (Falk et al. 2001)  
Color photo (Falk et al. 2001)  
Color photo of Holotype specimen (NY-231037, in  
<http://207.156.243.8/emu/vh/specimen.php?irn=220575>)

**TOTAL RANGE:** Ajo Mountains, Pima County, Arizona.

**RANGE WITHIN ARIZONA:** See "Total Range."

### **SPECIES BIOLOGY AND POPULATION TRENDS**

**GROWTH FORM:** Perennial.

**PHENOLOGY:** Flowers and fruits from September through November.

#### **BIOLOGY:**

**HABITAT:** North facing basalt cliffs, which are shaded and cool but not moist. The plants grow in the bare rock crevices.

**ELEVATION:** 2,600 - 4,800 ft (793-1465 m).

**EXPOSURE:** North or west.

**SUBSTRATE:** Basalt cliffs, volcanic rock.

**PLANT COMMUNITY:** Arizona upland.

**POPULATION HISTORY AND TRENDS:** Unknown.

### **SPECIES PROTECTION AND CONSERVATION**

**ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT STATUS:** None (USDI, FWS 1996)  
[3C USDI, FWS 1993]  
[C2 USDI, FWS 1990]  
[C2 USDI, FWS 1985]  
[C2 USDI, FWS 1983]  
[C1 USDI, FWS 1980]

**STATE STATUS:** Salvage Restricted (ARS, ANPL 1999)

**OTHER STATUS:** None

**MANAGEMENT FACTORS:** Five of the six known localities are located within Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument, with no known threats to the species' inaccessible habitat (NatureServe 2005).

**PROTECTIVE MEASURES TAKEN:**

**SUGGESTED PROJECTS:**

**LAND MANAGEMENT/OWNERSHIP:** NPS - Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument; Private.

### **SOURCES OF FURTHER INFORMATION**

#### **REFERENCES:**

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#### MAJOR KNOWLEDGEABLE INDIVIDUALS:

T.K. Todsén

John Kartesz – Director of Biota of North America Program (BONAP) of the North Carolina Botanical Garden.

Sue Rutman – Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument, Ajo, Arizona.

#### ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

**Revised:** 2002-12-20 (AMS)  
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